

a historic name. One village is called *Bellibatlu*, the silver cup, for no reason that is apparent to the stranger. A hill in Mysore District is called *Bellibetta*—the silver hill. Several places are called *Bilikere* or *Belagola*—the white lake or pond. One place is called the village of the moon. It would appear that these people loved their villages and loved to give them fine names.

Many place names are based on legends and stories from the *Puranas* and many places without such names claim connection with some Puranic story, particularly of the *Ramayana* and the *Mahabharata*. In some of these cases, Rama is said to have lived in the locality for some time with Sita and Lakshmana. In others, he is said to have left the mark of his feet. Many are the riverside places where Sita is believed to have dwelt and bathed in the river. The water, the people will say, is still yellow because of the turmeric that Sita used then. In cases where this can be verified, the yellow is generally due to coloured lichen which has grown on the rock. Popular fancy is not interested in this verification. It indeed discourages verification. Many too are the places where the five Pandava brothers lived with their mother and where one or the other of them made a hearth or a pond or mortar and pestle for their old mother. The village mother and son think with wonder of the trouble that came to the

Pandava princes
and to their mother and of the mutual love
which made
their exile bearable and even pleasant.
They love to
think that part of the *Bharata* story took
place in the
vicinity of their villages.

Saguna as a personal name is frequent
in the Mai-
tiad. It is believed that the Sanskrit word
*Sakuna** has